

exactly reversed in *Helix portosantana*. The apical whorls are devoid of all pitting or punctation, while the under surface is punctated all over, similar punctation being present also on the upperside of the later whorls, though not there so conspicuously developed as on the lower surface. In other words, *Helix Loweii* has large pittings or punctures at the apex, and nowhere else. *Helix portosantana* has no pittings or punctations on the apical whorls, but has them on the later whorls. This description relates to adult shells.

XI.—On Two undescribed Cicadas from the Transvaal.

By W. L. DISTANT.

*Platypleura sylvia*, sp. n.

Body pilose. Head and pronotum ochraceous; head with the face and front castaneous, the carinæ black, on face enclosing two ochraceous spots; a broad black fascia between the eyes, ocelli castaneous; pronotum with the lateral angles pale ochraceous, inwardly infuscated. Mesonotum castaneous, with four large black obconical spots on anterior margin, the outermost longest and curved; a black central lanceolate spot and a spot on each anterior branch of the cruciform elevation; lateral basal margin ochraceous. Abdomen above black, posterior segmental margins castaneous. Body beneath and legs ochraceous; coxæ and trochanters spotted with black.

Tegmina semiopaque and talc-like, slightly mottled with fuscous, venation castaneous, whole costal area ochraceous; wings pale hyaline, venation castaneous, about basal half semiopaque pale ochraceous where the venation is concolorous.

Opercula short, broad, considerably overlapping inwardly; rostrum not extending beyond posterior coxæ, its apex black; face with an acute central sulcation; pronotal lateral angles broadly amplified and subacutely angulated.

♂ ♀. Long. 32–33 millim.; exp. tegm. 90 millim.

*Hab.* Transvaal: Pretoria District (*Pret. Mus.*), Middelburg (*Kassner*), Zoutpansberg (*Kassner*), Lydenburg District (*Pret. Mus.* and *Coll. Dist.*).

This species is allied to *P. semiclara*, Germ., from which it differs by the much larger and more robust body, the more angulated pronotal margins, different colour and markings, and especially in the smaller ochraceous area of the wings.

*P. sylvia* seems, according to present knowledge, to be  
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confined to the Transvaal, which is, however, decidedly improbable. I brought home two specimens with me in 1896, and during a visit to the Pretoria Museum last October I was able to inspect a fair series of both sexes.

*Tibicen sirius*, sp. n.

Head and thorax chocolate-brown. Head with the central area to face, anterior margin, apex of front, and area of the ocelli black. Pronotum with two blackish, narrow, central, contiguous fasciæ, widened anteriorly and posteriorly. Mesonotum with four obconical black spots, the central two smallest, the lateral ones very long; central area of cruciform elevation black. Abdomen rufous-brown, the segments more or less transversely streaked with piceous, and with a distinct series of linear black spots on each lateral margin. Head beneath and sternum palely tomentose; legs chocolate-brown, streaked with piceous; tarsi piceous, posterior femora and tarsi ochraceous; opercula dull ochraceous; abdomen beneath rufous-brown, with a faint central, longitudinal, macular, piceous fascia.

Tegmina and wings pale hyaline, both with a very distinct basal ochraceous patch; venation fuscous; wings with a small fuscous spot at apex of radial area, posterior margin of abdominal area also very distinctly fuscous.

Long. excl. tegm., ♂, 17 millim.; exp. tegm. 47 millim.

*Hab.* Transvaal, Lydenburg District (*Pret. Mus. and Coll. Dist.*).

This species is superficially to be recognized by the basal ochraceous areas to the tegmina and wings. The rostrum reaches the intermediate coxæ; the anterior femora are provided with two long acute spines.

XII.—*The Genus Pœcilotheria: its Habits, History, and Species.* By R. I. POCOCK, of the British Museum of Natural History.

[Plate VII.]

Part 1.—*Observations on the Habits and History of the Genus.*

THE genus *Pœcilotheria* is a representative of that great and almost cosmopolitan group of spiders which was formerly included under the comprehensive title *Mygale*—a term which is still to be found in many recent text-books of zoology and